

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of

CERTAIN ABSORBENT GARMENTS

Investigation No. 337-TA-508

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission

ACTION: Institution of investigation pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1337

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a complaint was filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission on April 5, 2004 under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. § 1337, on behalf of Tyco Healthcare Retail Group, Inc. and Paragon Trade Brands, Inc. A supplement to the complaint was filed on April 26, 2004. The complaint, as supplemented, alleges violations of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain absorbent garments by reason of infringement of claims 1, 9, 12 - 13 of U.S. Patent No. 5,275, 590, claims 1 - 2 of U.S. Patent No. 5,403,301, and claims 8 - 9 of U.S. Patent No. 4,892,528. The complaint further alleges that there exists an industry in the United States as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337.

The complainant requests that the Commission institute an investigation and, after the investigation, issue a permanent general exclusion order and permanent cease and desist orders.

ADDRESSES: The complaint and supplemental letter, except for any confidential information contained therein, are available for inspection during official business hours (8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Room 112, Washington, D.C. 20436, telephone 202-205-2000. Hearing-impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server at <http://www.usitc.gov>. The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas S. Fusco, Esq., Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, telephone 202-205-2571.

AUTHORITY: The authority for institution of this investigation is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and in section 210.10 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 C.F.R. § 210.10 (2003).

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION: Having considered the complaint, the U.S. International Trade Commission, on April 30, 2004 ORDERED THAT --

(1) Pursuant to subsection (b) of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, an investigation be instituted to determine whether there is a violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, or the sale within the United States after importation of certain absorbent garments by reason of infringement of claims 1, 9, 12, or 13 of U.S. Patent No. 5,275,590, claims 1 or 2 of U.S. Patent No. 5,403,301, or claims 8 or 9 of U.S. Patent No. 4,892,528, and whether an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337.

(2) For the purpose of the investigation so instituted, the following are hereby named as parties upon which this notice of investigation shall be served:

(a) The complainants are --

Tyco Healthcare Retail Group, Inc.
601 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Paragon Trade Brands, Inc.
601 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

(b) The respondents are the following companies alleged to be in violation of Section 337 and upon which the complaint is to be served --

Grupo ABS Internacional, S.A. de C.V.
Humberto Lobo 9013
Ciudad Mitras, N.L.

Mexico 66400

Absormex S.A. de C.V.
Humberto Lobo 9013
Ciudad Mitras, N.L.
Mexico 66400

Absormex USA, Inc.
4401 San Francisco Avenue
Laredo, Texas 78041

- (c) Thomas S. Fusco, Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Room 401-E, Washington, D.C. 20436, who shall be the Commission investigative attorney, party to this investigation; and

- (3) For the investigation so instituted, the Honorable Charles E. Bullock is designated as the presiding administrative law judge.

Responses to the complaint and the notice of investigation must be submitted by the named respondents in accordance with section 210.13 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 C.F.R. § 210.13. Pursuant to 19 C.F.R. §§ 201.16(d) and 210.13(a), such responses will be considered by the Commission if received no later than 20 days after the date of service by the Commission of the complaint and notice of investigation. Extensions of time for submitting responses to the complaint will not be granted unless good cause therefor is shown.

Failure of a respondent to file a timely response to each allegation in the complaint and in this notice may be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to appear and contest the allegations of the complaint and this notice, and to authorize the administrative law judge and the Commission, without further notice to the respondent, to find the facts to be as alleged in the complaint and this notice and to enter both an initial determination and a final determination containing such findings, and may result in the issuance of a limited exclusion order or a cease and desist order or both directed against such respondent.

By order of the Commission.

Marilyn Abbott
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: May 3, 2004